



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **200,000 Tons of Sediment Slated for Removal at Matanzas Creek Reservoir**

Santa Rosa, CA – The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) is working to remove approximately 125,000 cubic yards of sediment that has been deposited in Matanzas Creek Reservoir over the past twenty years. The goal of the project is to restore flood protection capacity to the reservoir. The cost of the project is about \$3 million and is being paid for by Flood Control Zone 1A funds. The electorate of Zone 1A authorized benefit assessments to be levied through local property taxes until 2006 to finance the design and construction of flood control projects, such as this sediment removal project.

“Matanzas Reservoir is one of the anchors of the flood protection system for downtown Santa Rosa,” said Mike Thompson, deputy chief engineer of maintenance. “It is critical that the flood protection capability of Matanzas Reservoir be restored to decrease the risk of flooding in downtown Santa Rosa.”

Matanzas Reservoir, Spring Lake Reservoir and numerous flood control channels reduce the risk of flooding in downtown Santa Rosa during severe storms. The removal of sediment from Matanzas Reservoir last took place in 1988 and required dewatering of the entire reservoir. Sediment deposited in the reservoir from the upper watershed decreases its storage capacity, limiting its ability to provide flood control for the Matanzas Creek watershed. The reservoir is located on Matanzas Creek near Mitchell Road, southeast of Bennett Valley Road, in an unincorporated area just outside the City of Santa Rosa. It is roughly 2,000 feet in length, extending from north to south. The reservoir’s designed storage capacity is 1,500 acre-feet.

Several excavators are being used to dig up the sediment while large dump trucks haul the sediment to an on-site location. In order to remove the sediment, the Agency dewatered the reservoir in July 2006. A team of biologists assisted with the dewatering process by rescuing stranded fish and relocating them to Spring Lake.

Alterations to the reservoir floor are also being made to reduce the rate of future sediment build-up. The Agency is utilizing advances in stream design techniques to create a low-flow channel that will allow for a steady flow of water through the reservoir. This design is aimed at reducing the rate of future sediment deposition.

“This project is a very effective use of Flood Zone 1A funds to help the Agency meet its goal of providing and maintaining flood protection for its service area in Santa Rosa,” said Thompson.

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*Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org).*